United Nations A/72/491

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 October 2017

Original: English

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 77
Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 12 May 2017 from the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to bring to your attention that, at its thirteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted decision XIII/12, entitled "Marine and coastal biodiversity: ecologically or biologically significant marine areas".

In paragraph 2 of that decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to include, in the repository of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, the summary reports prepared by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twentieth meeting, as contained in annex I to the decision, and to submit the reports to the General Assembly, and in particular to its Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292: Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, as well as to parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations in line with the purpose and procedures set out in its decisions X/29, XI/17 and XII/22. It also requested the Executive Secretary to submit the reports to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the General Assembly on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects.

Pursuant to those requests, the summary reports on the description of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas are provided in all official languages of the United Nations on the official website of the Convention at: www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-13.

The present letter is in line with similar previous communications (A/67/838 and A/69/794), whereby the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity transmitted to the Secretary-General the summaries of the results of the first two series of regional workshops on the description of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 77.

(*Signed*) Cristiana **Paşca Palmer**
Executive Secretary

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